AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a no-ring telephone call service, the method comprising:

receiving notification that a telephone call from a calling party device requesting to use the no-ring telephone call service has arrived at a switch, the notification including a called party telephone number; and

determining if the called party telephone number corresponds to a voice mail platform telephone number in a region wide messaging database, wherein:

when the called party telephone number corresponds to a voice mail platform telephone number, instructions to route the telephone call to the voice mail platform telephone number are communicated to the switch; ~~and~~

when the called party telephone number does not correspond to a voice mail platform telephone number, instructions to play a pre-recorded message are communicated to the switch, the pre-recorded message including a direct connect option for completing the telephone call to the called party telephone number including ringing a device at the called party telephone number; and

when the calling party device selects the direct connect option, the no-ring telephone call application sends instructions to the switch to complete the telephone call.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the instructions to route the telephone call include the voice mail platform telephone number and the called party telephone number.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the region wide messaging database includes voice mail platform telephone number attributes and called party telephone number attributes.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the notification is received at an application server.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the notification is received at a service control point.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

verifying that the calling party device is authorized to use the no-ring telephone call service; and

if the verifying results in a determination that the calling party device is not authorized to use the no-ring telephone call service then sending instructions to the switch to play a pre-recorded not authorized message to the calling party device.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the request is initiated by a calling party entering a no-ring telephone call service code into the calling party device.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the calling party device is a public switched telephone network enabled telephone and the switch is a service provider central office service switching point.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the calling party device is an Internet protocol/session initiation protocol enabled telephone and the switch is a softswitch in communication with the Internet.

10. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a no-ring telephone call service, the system comprising:

a service control point;

a switch in communication with the service control point, the switch including a no-ring telephone call service trigger provisioned on a calling party line at the switch for triggering a query to the service control point whenever a telephone call including a no-ring telephone call service request is made by a calling party device;

a region wide messaging database in communication with the service control point; and

a no-ring telephone call application accessed by the service control point for responding to the query by determining whether a called party telephone number corresponds to a voice mail platform telephone number in the region wide messaging database, wherein:

when the called party telephone number corresponds to a voice mail platform telephone number, the no-ring telephone call application sends instructions to the switch to route the telephone call to the voice mail platform telephone number; ~~and~~

when the called party telephone number does not correspond to a voice mail platform telephone number, the no-ring telephone call application sends instructions to the switch to play a pre-recorded message, the pre-recorded message including a direct connect option for completing the telephone call to the called party telephone number including ringing a device at the calling party telephone number; and

when the calling party device selects the direct connect option, the no-ring telephone call application sends instructions to the switch to complete the telephone call.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the switch is a softswitch.

12. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the switch is a service switching point.

13. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the switch is a service provider central office service switching point.

14. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the calling party device is a public switched telephone network enabled telephone.

15. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the calling party device is an Internet protocol/session initiation protocol enabled telephone.

16. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the called party device is a public switched telephone network enabled telephone.

17. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the called party device is an Internet protocol/session initiation protocol enabled telephone.

18. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the service control point is an advanced intelligent network service control point.

19. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the no-ring telephone call application is remote from the service control point.

20. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the no-ring telephone call application is part of an application server that is in communication with the service control point.

21. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the telephone call is routed via a packet switching network.

22. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a no-ring telephone call service, the system comprising:

an application server;

a switch in communication with the application server, the switch including a no-ring telephone call service trigger provisioned on a calling party line at the switch for triggering a query to the application server whenever a telephone call including a no-ring telephone call service request is made by a calling party device;

a region wide messaging database in communication with the application server; and

a no-ring telephone call application accessed by the application server for responding to the query by determining whether a called party telephone number corresponds to a voice mail platform telephone number in the region wide messaging database, wherein:

when the called party telephone number corresponds to a voice mail platform telephone number, the no-ring telephone call application sends instructions to the switch to route the telephone call to the voice mail platform telephone number; and

when the called party telephone number does not correspond to a voice mail platform telephone number, the no-ring telephone call application sends instructions to the switch to play a pre-recorded message, the pre-recorded message including a direct

connect option for completing the telephone call to the called party telephone number including ringing a device at the calling party telephone number; and

when the calling party device selects the direct connect option, the no-ring telephone call application sends instructions to the switch to complete the telephone call.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein the pre-recorded message is stored on a media player in communication with the switch.

24. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein the telephone call is routed via a packet switching network.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for providing a no-ring telephone call service, the computer program product comprising:

a computer-readable storage medium for storing instructions for executing the no-ring telephone call service, the no-ring telephone call service comprising a method of:

receiving notification that a telephone call from a calling party device requesting to use the no-ring telephone call service has arrived at a switch, the notification including a called party telephone number; and

determining if the called party telephone number corresponds to a voice mail platform telephone number in a region wide messaging database, wherein:

when the called party telephone number corresponds to a voice mail platform telephone number, the telephone call is routed to the voice mail platform telephone number; and

when the called party telephone number does not correspond to a voice mail platform telephone number, a pre-recorded message is delivered to the calling party device, the pre-recorded message including a direct connect option for completing the telephone call to the called party telephone number including ringing a device at the calling party telephone number; and

when the calling party device selects the direct connect option, the no-ring telephone call application sends instructions to the switch to complete the telephone call.